

JOINT NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box PPA
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

On Application for a National
Pollutant Discharge Elimination
System (NPDES) Permit to
Discharge Pollutants to Waters
of the United States

Public Notice No.: **AS-08-W-06**
Publication Date of Notice: **January 2, 2008**
Public Comment Period Closes: **January 31, 2008**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX (EPA) and American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) are jointly issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and regulations. EPA is today proposing to reissue NPDES permits to the following dischargers:

StarKist Samoa, Inc.
P.O. Box 368
Pago Pago, Tutuila
American Samoa 96799

and

COS Samoa Packing Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 957
Pago Pago, Tutuila
American Samoa 96799

StarKist Samoa, Inc. and the COS Samoa Packing Company, Inc. each own and operate a tuna processing and canning facility located in the town of Atu'u on the Island of Tutuila in the Territory of American Samoa. Each facility receives frozen whole tuna that are processed and canned as tuna fish for human consumption and pet food, and processes fish by-products into fish meal. The StarKist Samoa, Inc. facility has a daily production of 564 tons of tuna processed per day, with a maximum daily production of 614 tons per day. The facility anticipates a maximum average daily production of 600 tons of tuna processed per day during the next permit term. The COS Samoa Packing Company, Inc. facility has an average daily production of 359 tons of tuna processed per day, with a daily maximum of 445 tons per day. During the permit term, the facility anticipates a maximum average daily production of 450 tons of tuna processed per day. Each facility is composed of a main industrial facility and a wastewater treatment facility. The main industrial facility consists of a dock, storage freezers, several fish processing areas, cannery, and shipping area. Each facility's wastewater treatment facility treats production wastewater and on-site storm water collected via its wastewater collection system.

StarKist Samoa, Inc. and the COS Samoa Packing Company, Inc. discharge effluent collected from each facility's wastewater collection system into Pago Pago Harbor via a single outfall shared by the two facilities (referred to as Discharge Outfall No. 001). Discharge Point No. 001, also known as the Joint Cannery Outfall or "JCO", is located approximately 1.5 miles seaward

from the facilities and is shared by both facilities. The discharge point terminates in a multiport diffuser at a depth of approximately 176 feet in the Outer Harbor of Pago Pago Harbor.

Pago Pago Harbor is a near-shore territorial water of American Samoa and is classified as an embayment that consists of an Inner, Middle and Outer Harbor, with fringing reefs throughout Middle and Outer Harbor areas. Pago Pago Harbor is intended for general, commercial and industrial use, while allowing for protection of aquatic life, aesthetic enjoyment and whole and limited recreational contact. Specific intended uses include the following: recreational and commercial fishing, shipping, boating and berthing, industrial water supply, and support and propagation of marine life.

EPA has made a preliminary determination that the draft NPDES permits will have no effect on any federally-listed threatened or endangered species.

The Administrative Record, including the permit applications, fact sheets, draft permits, public comments, and other relevant documents, is available for public review Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm. at the EPA address listed below or may be obtained by contacting Mr. Carl Goldstein of EPA by telephone at (415) 972-3767 or electronic mail at goldstein.carl@epa.gov. The draft permits and fact sheets may also be obtained by visiting EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/npdes/pubnotices.html>. Persons wishing to comment upon the draft permits or request a public hearing pursuant to 40 CFR 124.12 should submit their comments or request in writing within 30 days from the date of this notice, either in person or by mail to:

Regional Administrator
EPA Region IX
Pacific Islands Office, CED-6
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Director
ASEPA
P.O. Box PPA
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Upon issuance of a final permit decision and response to comments, EPA will notify by mail the applicants and persons who submitted written comments or requested notice of the final permit decision. If no comments are submitted on the draft permits, the final permits will become effective three (3) days from the date of mailing. If comments are submitted on the draft permits, the final permits will become effective 33 days from the date of mailing, unless a petition is filed with the Environmental Appeals Board to review any conditions of the final permits under 40 CFR 124.19(a), as revised at 65 Fed. Reg. 30886, 30911 (May 15, 2000). A copy of such petition should be sent to EPA at the address listed above. Persons filing a request for review must have filed comments on the draft permit(s) or participated in a public hearing. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of all persons you know that would be interested in this matter.